

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Faulk (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,705). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicants' invention, as set forth in claim 1, is directed to a power adapter comprising a first housing and a second housing remote from the first housing. An AC input receptacle is provided in the first housing and a voltage converting circuit is enclosed within the first housing and electrically connected to the AC input receptacle, the voltage converting circuit converting input AC power into a DC voltage. A voltage regulating circuit is electrically connectable to the voltage converting circuit and is enclosed within the second housing, the voltage regulating circuit maintaining and outputting the DC voltage from the voltage converting circuit.

In contrast, in Faulk there is no disclosure or suggestion of a voltage regulating circuit, let alone a voltage regulating circuit which is contained in a second housing remote from the first housing.

The Examiner contends that Faulk does disclose a voltage regulator in that the EMI filter is a voltage regulator. The Examiner bases this on a definition that a voltage regulator is any circuit that changes or adjusts the voltage of the circuit. Based on this definition, every electrical and electronic component, since it effects voltage in a circuit, would then be a voltage regulator. However, no one skilled in the art would classify all of those components as voltage regulators; nor would they classify a filter as a voltage regulator. A voltage regulator is a circuit that maintains a voltage constant between selected parameters. See for example, the definition of voltage regulation at the following website: www.flw.com/terms/index.html.

Thus contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Faulk does not contain a voltage regulator.

Further, the Examiner cites the case of *Nerwin v. Erlichman* 168 USPQ 177, 179 as standing for the proposition that constructing a formally integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. To the contrary, the *Nerwin v. Erlichman* case involved an interference in which the issue was not patentability but instead was whether one of the parties was able to make a count of the interference. In this instance, the Court held that the fact that a

structure is integral does not preclude its consisting of various elements. This has absolutely nothing to do with the question of obviousness or non-obviousness.

A case that did deal with this issue is *Mooney v. Brunswick Corp.*, 489 F. Supp. 544, 561, 206 USPQ 121 (E.D. Wis. 1980), *aff'd*, 663 F.2d 724, 212 USPQ 401 (7th Cir. 1981), in which the Court held that there is no per se rule that making something in one piece that was formerly made in two or more pieces renders it obvious. Rather, the Court held one must look at the improvement that results from the new construction and whether that improvement of construction itself is obvious from the prior art. Although the case simply dealt with making something in one piece that was formerly made in two or more pieces, the same logic obviously would apply to the reverse situation, that is, making something in two or more pieces that was formerly made in one piece.

Specifically, applying this reasoning to the present situation it is seen that numerous improvements have resulted from providing two housings rather than one and by the selective placement of components in the two housings and that there is nothing in the prior art that would suggest either the use of the two housings or the specific disposition of parts within those housings.

By providing two housings and placing the AC connectors and the AC/DC converter in one housing and placing the voltage regulators in a second housing, Applicant provides a power adapter which has a relatively simple structure, a high efficiency and improved output performance. Moreover, because the first housing need only contain the voltage converting circuit, the power adapter has increased thermal performance and improved electromagnetic interference characteristics.

Additionally, since the power converter circuit electronics are separated from the input connector style (for example, 110V_{AC}, 220V_{AC}), which vary by geography throughout the world, production costs can be reduced because each of the input connectors and the voltage regulating circuits can be separately manufactured and then matched to form the desired power adapter. For example, with the prior art power adapters, if there were five different input connector styles and 5 different output voltages required, 25 different connectors would have to be produced (5 input connectors X 5 required output voltages). With the present power adapter, the five different

input connectors could be produced separately from the five voltage regulating portions. Then the desired input connector style can be matched to desired voltage regulating portion. Thus, only 10 separate items need be manufactured (5 input connector styles + 5 voltage regulating portions).

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clearly neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Faulk.

Claims 2-9 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons as well as because of combinations of the features set forth in these claims with the features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

In view of the foregoing this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 29, 2005

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